

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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At 90 He's Still "Actively" Retiring

For most newspapermen, one retirement is enough, but not so for **Philip Whitcomb**. After leaving the *Christian Science Monitor* at the age of 87, he has now retired again, teaching his final class at the University of Kansas, and at the age of 90, he still intends to remain active, traveling and writing.

Moreover, he has developed a formula which he offers to all retiring journalists. Having written a 100,000-word dissertation on "Distinctions between Existence and Essence in the Thought of Thomas Aquinas, Giles of Rome and Francisco Suarez," he suggests:

"After 40 or 50 years of writing about anything assigned to him, any good journalist can get an assignment of some scholastic subject from some college or university and do an excellent job."

Phil confesses that he knew "nothing whatever about Existence and Essence," but he treated the subject as he had any other assignment in 64 years as a foreign correspondent, and he was rewarded last year with a Ph.D. from the University of Kansas.

Phil comes from an academic family. His parents were two of the founders of, and professors in Washburn University School of Law in Topeka. Phil was graduated from Washburn in 1910, and he was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford until 1914.

While at Wadham College, Oxford, he proposed a plan for members of the college to continue enough scholastic work after graduation to enable them to undertake serious projects

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CLUB CLOSED WEEKENDS

Effective Saturday, July 3, until further notice, the Club will be closed from 4 p.m. Saturdays until 6 a.m. Mondays.

Now There's A Whole New 'Our Crowd'



Jean Baer

Our Summer Party Really Jumped

The library hush which generally pervades the main lounge of the OPC was shattered Thursday night, June 17, by the tinkle of glasses, the spirited conversation of OPCers, and the energetic singing of Emme Kemp and her talented guests. Yes, the OPC hosted a big party for more than one good reason.

The first good reason was to introduce the OPC's new president, **Anita Diamant**, who needs no introduction but introduced she was, most graciously, by former OPC president **Jack Raymond**. Mrs. Diamant made a short speech of welcome and introduced members of her Board of Governors who will help guide the destiny of the Club for the next two years.

(Continued on page 2)

Mother of a nouveau yachtsman (showing off his new cabin cruiser) asks, "Yes, David, but by capfains, are *you* a captain?"

Recently re-elected OPC secretary **Jean Baer** has just finished her seventh book — "The Self-Chosen: 'Our Crowd' is Dead — Long Live Our Crowd." It will be released by Arbor House July 16.

Jean plans to talk about her interviews for the book at an OPC Book Night Tuesday, July 13, 5:30 p.m. There will be cocktails and conversation. Reservations, please: (212) 679-9650.

For the book, Jean interviewed more than 200 men and women, all of them noteworthy and often self-made and from an East European background. Among them: Ambassador Sol M. Linowitz, columnist Sylvia Porter, investment bankers John Schiff and Sanford Weill, opera star Roberta Peters, the real estate families of Furst, Uris, Tishman and Rose. These have "replaced in importance the old German-Jewish crowd profiled in Stephen Birmingham's well-known book."

Those interviewed have three things in common: they have achieved in their chosen fields, they are Jewish, and they have submitted to a Baer interview. Many have been invited to the July 13th Book Night.

Daughter of a newspaperman, Jean Baer has worked for the Mutual Broadcasting System and the U.S. Information Agency and was a senior editor of *Seventeen*. She is a frequent contributor to various national magazines. Among her best-selling books are "Don't Say Yes When You Want to Say No" and "How to be an Assertive—Not Aggressive Woman."

Jean has been an OPC member since 1951. Since 1974 she has been a member of the Board of Governors and was just re-elected Secretary. She has been a member of the Book, the Hospitality and the Annual Awards committees.

— Charles J. Schreiber



New York State Certificate of Appreciation

Presented to

Overseas Press Club of America

for setting a continuing example of the best of
your profession and the best of New York.

Dedicated to the ever present search for
knowledge, you and your colleagues of the New
York State media are responsible for more
kinds of news than any other communications
cadre in the world, and you daily demonstrate
the high quality of the myriad services and pro-
ducts made in New York.

Presented on

May 10, 1982



Hugh L. Carey

HUGH L. CAREY
Governor
State of New York

George G. Dempster

GEORGE G. DEMPSTER
Commerce Commissioner

You probably didn't think Gov. Carey cared about OPC, but the certificate above should assure you that he not only remembered us before leaving office but did so in flattering prose. For which gracious gubernatorial recognition we are duly grateful.

SUMMER PARTY

(Continued from page 1)

Gloria Zukerman and her Program Committee, who planned the party, did things in grand style. There were hot hors d'oeuvres, enough for all, and the bar operated efficiently and affectionately. Emme Kemp, that "Bubbling Brown Sugar" lady, filled every corner of the lounge with her enthusiastic singing and piano playing, and members of her group also entertained with songs on the guitar.

As always, there were door prizes for a number of lucky people. They included wines from the Schieffelin Company and also from San Bernardino Australian wines, gifts from Lufthansa and General Electric, and a special gift of two nights at the Sands Hotel, for two, in Atlantic City.

Thanks, everyone, for making the night a memorable one. We hope there will be a repeat in the fall to get the new season off to a high start. It's so nice to get together. We really ought to do it more often!

— **Rosalind Moore**

He may be from Chile, but he found a warm reception at the club when he came to our party — **Jorge T. Tapia**, vice president of Santiago, Chile's leading newspaper, *El Mercurio*, a new member. . . . In town from Washington for a work break recently — **Victor Lasky** and his wife Patricia. Having done books on John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, Watergate, Jimmy Carter and Henry Ford 2, Victor is now working on another Nixon book.

Letters

NEW YORK—OPC annual awards dinners have provided prestigious news-making opportunities for government officials eager to appear before an audience they regard as influential. Yet is there a Clausewitzian dictum that mandates such speakers must be limited to Pentagon chieftains, NATO commanders, or U.S. ambassadors confronting a hostile UN?

It is true that most OPC awards are justly bestowed on our valiant colleagues for splendid and courageous achievements in reporting warfare and similar hazards. Yet surely there is much noteworthy media activity involving critical themes other than military matters which should equally command our professional interest.

Today the world's economy is in crisis with a news priority transcending all else. I would (along with others I'm sure) be delighted to hear a Walter Wriston (Citicorp) or A. B. Clausen (World Bank) share views with us. Would not the new Secretary General of the UN regard the OPC awards dinner as an admirable platform to enunciate his policies for averting the nuclear Armageddon? Why not seek out appropriate foreign officials to elucidate developments in the People's Republic of China or among the Union of African States?

Indeed, I would be excited to hear Saudi's King Fahd explain why he characterized our latest Pentagon emissary as "only an arms salesman."

I hope the OPC's new officers will consider this modest proposal.

— **Harry C. Levin**

TEL AVIV—Gideon Berli, Israeli head of the DPA (German Press Agency) for the past 14 years, received top recognition for outstanding work as a journalist. He received the equivalent of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The German Ambassador to Israel, Neils Hansen, invited Gideon to the Embassy and bestowed upon him the government's highest accolade, the "Bundes Verdienst Kreuz" for his objective, responsible reporting and for his emphasis on better understanding between Israel and Germany.

Gideon's own life has a bit of drama. Born in Austria, he was three years old when he was taken into a concentration camp for two years. When liberated, he was taken to Israel.

(Continued on page 3)

Letters

Berli was president of the Foreign Press Association for three terms. In the recent election he was chosen head of the board of governors.

— Max Gendel

VERMILLION, S.D. — Philip Hochstein, presumably an otherwise objective journalist, should read James Enne's award winning "Assault on the Liberty" before declaring that the book and George Weller's review of it both "reek with a hatred that is blind to facts." Had he read it, he would know that the ship did not sink, and he might be forced to admit that it is a balanced and documented first hand account by an officer who was on the bridge.

I, too, survived the attack, and I still wonder why the *Liberty* is a "hands off" subject for the press.

— Stan White

Publisher, *USS Liberty Newsletter*

(Editor's Note: With this, we bring the Liberty discussion to a close. Letters were also received from Norman F. Dacey, Portacarron, Ireland, author of a history of the Palestine confrontation, who supports George Weller's review; from Donald L. Blalock, Jessup, Md., who served aboard the Liberty and confirms Weller; from William E. Casper, Forest City, Pa., who has seen the Liberty's remains in a Boston scrapyard. Also, another letter from Phil Hochstein. Liberty survivors were to meet in June in Washington.)

Editor in India Wins World Acclaim

Al Balk's *World Press Review* has named Arun Shouri, executive editor of the *Indian Express* of New Delhi and nine other cities in India, as International Editor of the Year. Shourie was honored "for his historic introduction of aggressive, independent investigative journalism into the world's largest democracy." Shourie's crusades brought about the ouster of a chief minister of state, exposed punitive transfer of judges who ruled against the Administration, of police blindings of prisoners, and of illegal detentions and illegal imprisonment of the mentally ill.

NEXT BULLETIN
AUGUST 1

RETIRING? HECK, NO!

(Continued from page 1)



Philip Whitcomb

after retirement. World War I prevented consideration of the plan.

Phil began his career as a foreign correspondent in 1914, and when he retired in 1978, he figured he had filed more than 12 million words from 17 countries, primarily France, Britain and Germany, for such outlets as the old *Harper's Weekly*, *New York Tribune*, *Associated Press*, *Baltimore Sun* and *Christian Science Monitor*.

While working as a correspondent, he continued to study philosophy, and after retiring, he enrolled at the University of Kansas as a Ph.D. candidate in that field. He also conducted seminars there in Western civilization.

Since his last day of teaching in May, he has been traveling around the United States, visiting members of his family—he has 18 great grandchildren. He plans to return to Paris this summer to complete his memoirs—the first draft is done.

— Henry Cassidy

Since February, Anne Turner Bruno has been freelancing for a new Istanbul daily, *Güneş*, (The Sun), which has in the past two months stabilized at 650,000 circulation. It is now the third largest of Istanbul's 16 dailies and the third largest in Turkey. Anne is covering New York City and Turkish stories across the U.S. and will be going to Turkey in July to consult with the editors.

Placement

University Texas (Austin) female recent grad seeking job Manhattan will apartment-sit and pay minimal rent for summer beginning July 1st. OPC member-father will pay rent in advance if desired. Please telephone Harold Oram business hours: 549-6065.

Summer rental East Hampton-Springs. \$5500 through Labor Day. 3 bedrms, 2 baths, large living-dining room, fireplace, deck, all appliances; nicely furnished. Weekdays (212) 246-8689; evenings 929-8597; weekends (516) 324-0236.

Placement is a free service to OPC members. To list positions open or wanted, address Helen Alpert, OPC.

New Applications

ACTIVE RESIDENT

Thomas J.R. Kent; Dep. News Editor, A.P.
Sponsors: George A. Krinsky, Charles Schreiber
Rosina P. Primo; Assoc. Publisher, Village Gazette & Rep. WNVN
Sponsors: Suzanne Johnson, George A. Krinsky

ACTIVE NONRESIDENT

W. David Gardner, self-employed
Sponsors: Hesh Wiener, Tom Mechling
Benton J. Willner Jr., self-employed
Sponsors: Sherwood Dickerman, James Hanchett

ASSOCIATE RESIDENT

Andrea M. Couture; Creative Dir., NY Urban Coalition
Sponsor: Ben Greenwald

New Members

ACTIVE RESIDENT

Robert G. Lowery
Cheryl McCall

ACTIVE NONRESIDENT

James J. Donlan
Ian Westergren

ASSOCIATE RESIDENT

Major John M. Shotwell
Frank Hefter

AFFILIATE

James A. Anderson

RE-INSTATED

ASSOCIATE NONRESIDENT

Anthony G. Baker



OPC BULLETIN

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Who, What, Where

By Rosalind Massow

HONORED BY ACADEMIA . . .

Two OPCers, **Lael Wertenbaker** and **Paul S. Underwood**, donned academic robes recently to receive honorary Doctor of Letters degrees. Author Lael Wertenbaker received hers from Franklin Pierce College in New Hampshire for her long dedication to arts and letters. She's been a trustee of MacDowell Colony, the National Repertory Theatre and Monadnock Music and a commissioner for the N.H. Council on the Arts. Professor Underwood, who teaches journalism at Ohio State University, was awarded his degree from Ohio Northern University.

ZOO HOPPING . . . As if we didn't have enough of our own creatures here in the U.S., **Emily Nathan** is off to England, Scotland and Wales to look at their beasties. It's all part of a zoo tour sponsored by the N.Y. Zoological Society.

IMPACT ON JUDGES . . . **Wes Pedersen**, director of communications for the Public Affairs Council and editor of its newsletter *Impact*, won the Gold Award for turning out the best association newsletter in the nation. His judges were the *Newsletter on Newsletters*, professional journal of publishers of—what else—newsletters.

ADIOS AMIGOS . . . After nine years with UPI in Latin America, **Martin McReynolds** returns to the USA to sign on with the national desk at the *Miami Herald*. For the last three years he was UPI manager for Colombia, prior to that his assignment was Buenos Aires.

BRAVE FELLOW . . . Editing any publication for fellow journalists can be trying, but when the readership is a large group of streetwise veterans of New York newspapers, it's open season. **Larry Stessin** has that to look forward to as the new editor of *Silurian News*. Good luck, Larry, get the names right and watch those typos, it even happens in *The Bulletin*.

HOME COMING OF SORTS . . . In his youth **Fritz Henle** learned his craft at the photography school at the Photo Museum in Munich. Now a resident of St. Croix, U.S.V.I., Henle will visit the Museum this summer to plan a show there. This will be his third exhibition in Europe in recent years. This past January his photos of Pablo Casals were on exhibit in Vienna. His book on the famed cellist is now available in Japanese, Swedish,

German, Catalan and shortly in Spanish.

MOVING TO LONDON . . . **Michael Johnson**, director of McGraw-Hill *World News* and an OPC board member, moves to London Aug. 1 to become editor-in-chief of *International Management*, a McGraw-Hill publication that's printed in English, Spanish and Arabic.

DOWN BY THE LEVEE . . . **Col. Barney Oldfield**, assisted by Helen Hayes, will once again judge the annual Great Steamboat Race this week. The Mississippi River paddle-wheeler classic starts in New Orleans and ends in Cincinnati. It stars the vintage *Delta Queen* and her sister, the *Mississippi Queen*.

A HELPING HAND . . . **Martin Gershen** received special mention in the best seller "Steamboat to Bamboola" by Christopher Buckley, son of William F. Buckley. As special projects officer with the Navy's Military Sealift Command, Gershen was able to get young Buckley a cruise on board the Navy-chartered *S.S. Transcolumbia*. The ship provided the background for the book.

BRITS TOAST NEW YORKER . . . **Tao Porchon-Lynch**, publisher and editor of the *Beverage Communicator*, was awarded the Southern Vineyard Trophy for her service in behalf of Britain's Home Wine and Beer Trade Association. Mrs. Porchon-Lynch is vice president of the New York regional division of the American Wine Society.

WITH WINNING TEAM . . . Film maker **Samuel Kravitt**, in the Caribbean recently, shooting footage on new cruising sloops of Stevens Yacht Charters, saw two of them run away with the prizes at Race Week in

Antigua. One sloop, *Animal Farm*, sailed off with three major cups, the other, *Blue Angel*, took second place in the first day's race. Now back in New Haven, he's trying to improve the performance of his own boat.

Do You Really Need A Reason?

It's been too long since the club enjoyed a champagne tasting party . . . something over a year since our own wine mavin **Robert Jay Misch** presided, uncorking bottles of the bubbly provided by our own **Irving Smith Kogan**, who PRs the French variety in the USA.

OPCers were invited at that sipping to enter a contest for the most amusing one-liners on when to uncork another bottle of champagne, French, of course. The prize was a *bouchon d'or*, a gold-plated recorker. If any of our folk won, we're unaware of it. But here, for the fun of it, are a few of the 100 winning entries out of the thousands Irving says were submitted:

*The first bottle of champagne is empty.
The doctor says it's just indigestion.
The mail is delivered the day after it
was posted.*

*You put on an old pair of pants and
find a \$20 bill in one of the pockets.
Your 8-year old turns off the TV and
says "I'd rather read a book."*

*You complete the New York Times
crossword, in ink, on the same day.*

*You're told the check is in the mail . .
. and it really is.*

You're snowed in from work.

You got a raise without asking.

*Whenever Tuesday is followed by
Wednesday.*

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